

FROM THE ACC

President's Page: Wrinkling the Soul

From the earliest times the old have rubbed it into the young that they are wiser than they, and before the young had discovered what nonsense this was they were old too, and it profited them to carry on the imposture" (1).

My contemporaries do not fall prey to either the acceptance of this precept or, more importantly, its relevance in their behaviors. It must be remembered, however, that these are the very same contemporaries who deny the relevance of—or indeed the achievement of—advancing age in their own individual circumstances.

Our society at large remains fascinated with youth—its concept, its embodiment, its dream—even as we outgrow it. Googling (I confess to not knowing if that is a verb or a noun) “youth and age” yields 178 million hits.

In medicine, we recognize the multifaceted talents of youth. These individuals possess unbridled enthusiasm and can stay up longer when on call and appear alert the next morning. They can advance knowledge of the latest information technology and often have creative approaches to problems—the latter of which is at least partly attributable to not knowing things that are not necessarily so. We especially recognize the crucial need for this “young blood” when we or our families and loved ones at some stage need their professional help.

The American College of Cardiology (ACC) is bringing the needs and talents of the younger generation to the fore—learning from them and learning with them. As part of this journey, I have asked 5 of our many best and brightest to tell us about their dreams and how they will play out on the backdrop of Chicago in 2012. They have responded better than my words could ever do, and so here they are:

Just the Right FIT for ACC.12

Eric Hoffer, American philosopher and author, once said, “Youth itself is a talent, a perishable talent.” It is fascinating to watch the flow of creativity emanate from the minds of youth; we see the invention of the pacemaker in Earl Bakken’s garage, Bill Gates’ creation of Microsoft 2 years out of high school, and even the creation of Facebook by Mark Zuckerberg and college friends. Creative breakthroughs, now taken for granted, often originate from the budding imagination of a generation’s youth. Without mentorship, however, creativity and talent often fail to reach their full potential.

There is no better time within the cardiology community to foster vital mentoring relationships than at the Scientific Sessions of the College. The upcoming ACC annual meeting in Chicago in March provides unprecedented opportunities for fellows to meet, engage, and learn from the most prominent members of our profession who are committed to training the next generation of cardiovascular leaders.

For the first time, this year’s meeting will include a half-day session on Saturday, March 24, dedicated to building the bridges between today’s and tomorrow’s leaders. This live face-to-face program will include 3 major sessions: 1) Finding the Right Job; 2) Launching a Successful Career; and 3) Meet and Greet. The first session will cover the changing landscape of



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the job market and discuss both traditional and nontraditional job opportunities as they exist today. The second session will include talks specifically designed for fellows and recent graduates on the keys to successfully launching a career in cardiovascular research. Topics will include obtaining funding, finding the right mentors, and using social media to conduct and promote research. The final session is an informal meet-and-greet event that provides a phenomenal "fellows-only" opportunity to interact with some of the most prominent leaders in cardiology today over light refreshments without a planned agenda. Fellows will have a chance to discuss any topic of interest with cardiology thought-leaders from across the country—what is it that you have always wanted to ask but never had the chance?

In addition to the Saturday afternoon programming, there will be 3 additional FIT Forums. The first, a jeopardy-themed forum, will take place on Saturday starting at 4:30 PM, while the second and third forums will take place on Sunday, March 25 and Monday, March 26, respectively. Sunday's session will focus on the topic of writing and evaluating medical journal articles and be led by Anthony N. DeMaria, MD, MACC, Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology (JACC), Jagat Narula, MD, FACC, Editor-in-Chief of JACC: Cardiovascular Imaging, and Spencer B. King, MD, MACC, Editor-in-Chief of JACC: Cardiovascular Interventions. Monday's session will provide important guidance regarding the first steps in a cardiology career. Also on Monday, the ACC-i2 With TCT program will offer 4 of the popular Fellow Bootcamps—Coronary I, Coronary II, Case Reviews, and Structural Heart.

ACC.12 also marks the inauguration of a Fellows-In-Training (FIT) online community, a novel means by which fellows across the world can experience the latest news in cardiology. Accessible via ACC's CardioSource website, the community will enable those unable to attend ACC.12 to remain up-to-date on fellow-focused events and happenings from Chicago. The FIT community, along with a blog on dukecardiologyfellows.org, will feature video interviews with key newsmakers at ACC.12 and the opportunity to stay connected with other FITs through fellow-focused commentary. Fellows able to personally attend ACC.12 will also have the opportunity to participate in content development for the community. Volunteers will serve as roving reporters to delve into the inner happenings of ACC.12, delivering first-hand, multimedia reports of the meeting to viewers around the world. Those interested in reporting or producing content should contact Amalea Hajar (ahijar@acc.org). Participating in this community offers a unique opportunity to maximize the online FIT presence for ACC.12.

In addition to connecting fellows with their peers, mentors, and thought-leaders through a variety of traditional and online interactions, ACC.12 and the i2 Summit in Chicago provide the paramount scientific forum for fellows to present abstracts, posters, and research presentations. The ACC is currently accepting abstract and late-breaking science submissions until November 21, 2011. Presenting a poster or oral presentation at ACC.12 represents a true academic honor, and we encourage fellows to submit their best scholarly work to ACC.12 and the i2 Summit. FITs submitting abstracts will have an unprecedented opportunity this year: the top 50 abstract scores with FITs as the first or second author, termed "FIT Rising Stars," will receive exclusive, invitation-only access to a special "Cardiology Legends" session at ACC.12. This Cardiology Legends session will provide invited fellows a unique opportunity to meet ACC leadership and up-and-coming faculty in an intimate setting over refreshments.

The ACC is dedicated to supporting FITs and recognizes that the future of cardiology rests in their hands. The ACC.12 and i2 Summit in Chicago will feature the talents of the College's youth through face-to-face sessions, multimedia coverage, and excellence in new science. FITs in attendance will begin to shape the future of our field. More senior participants have the opportunity to witness the evolution of the College and mentor the voices of tomorrow. We hope ACC members at all levels will take advantage of this phenomenal opportunity.

Jeffrey B. Geske, MD
Zubin J. Eapen, MD
John P. Vavalle, MD
W. Michael Cullen, MD
Nihar R. Desai, MD

Tremendous!

Samuel Ullman once said: "Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul." Your ACC does not believe in the concept of wrinkling the soul.

From the ACC and its emerging leaders to you!

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REFERENCE

1. W. Somerset Maugham, *Cakes and Ale*, 1930.